

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 SY-05 MCT-01 OPR-02
A-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /117 W
-----101986 150209Z /73

R 141213Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8337
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4583

EO 11652: SGDS-4
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: MORE INCIDENTS, SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR GOVERNMENT
CRACKDOWN

REF: A. TEHRAN 4524, B. TEHRAN 4526

SUMMARY: RIOTS IN TEHRAN MAY 11; QOM REMAINS UNDER MARTIAL
LAW. TEACHERS, STUDENTS, LABOR SUPPORT GOI'S DECISION TO
CRACK DOWN ON LAW-BREAKING DEMONSTRATORS. SHAH CALLED FOR
CONTINUED LIBERALIZATION WITHOUT VIOLENCE. GOI APOLOGIZES
FOR INTRUSION INTO RELIGIOUS LEADER'S QOM HOME. SEVERAL MORE
ARRESTS FOR VIOLENCE. RUMORS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS MAY 14 REPORTS 100 ARRESTS IN SOUTH TEHRAN MAY 11
AS RESULT OF RIOTING WHICH ATTACKED SHOPS, BANKS AND VEHICLES
(ISOLATED RIOTING REPORTEDLY CONTINUED AFTER MAIN BAZAAR INCIDENT)
FOR MORE THAN FOUR HOURS. QOM REMAINS UNDER MARTIAL LAW, BUT
CITY REMAINED QUIET THROUGH MORNING MAY 14.

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2. VARIOUS GROUPS OVER PAST FEW DAYS HAVE STRONGLY
SUPPORTED GOI'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BY
DEMONSTRATORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. ON MAY 11, PARLIA-
MENTARY DEPUTIES SPOKE IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT DECLARATION
AND DREW APPLAUSE FROM THE FLOOR. LEADERS OF IRANIAN
WORKER'S ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS TEHRAN'S 145 TRADE
GUILDS ISSUED STATEMENTS SUPPORTING GOI STAND AGAINST

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND INTIMIDATION OF BUSINESSMEN
BY RELIGIOUS DISSIDENTS WHO TRIED TO SHUT DOWN BUSINESSES.

3. PRESS REPORTS TEACHING STAFFS OF TEHRAN'S MAJOR UNIVERSITIES EXPRESSED "FULL SUPPORT" FOR GOI MOVES TO END CAMPUS UNREST AND "HOOLIGANISM IN THE STREETS". IN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER, SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF TEHRAN-BASED FACULTY MEMBERS CALLED FOR RESPECT OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW. NUMBER OF PERSIANS IN MANY SOCIAL GROUPINGS ARE QUITE FRANKLY RELIEVED BY GOI CRACKDOWN STATEMENT, WHICH MAY DO AS MUCH TO CLEAR AIR AND RESTORE CONFIDENCE AS ACTUAL POLICE ACTIVITY. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT POLICE NOT PLANNING ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN THEIR ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN MOVING IN A LITTLE EARLIER ON POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANGE TO BUILD UP STEAM.

4. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH BEING REPORTED IN DETAIL SEPTEL, SHAH STATED THAT RECENT GOVERNEMENT STATEMENT INDICATING HARD LINE AGAINST VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS DID NOT RPT NOT MEAN DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO HALT POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION. SHAH STRESSED THAT LEGAL LIBERTIES WOULD BE BROADENED, BUT LAW-BREAKING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST LIVES AND PROPERTY WOULD BE SEVERALY PUNISHED. IN PERIPHERALLY-RELATED EVENT, STUDENT SEMINAR ON IRANIAN ISSUES CALLED FOR RESURGENCE PARTY TO CURTAIL INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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REFERENCE IN EDUCATION AND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATION CORPS TO UNDERTAKE IRAN'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC TRAINING. STUDENT SEMINAR CALLED FOR NUMBER OF OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATION, INCLUDING STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ALL NON-ACADEMIC DECISIONS AND JOINT MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATORS AND PROFESSORS TO IRON OUT PROBLEMS.

5. PRESS MAY 14 ALSO REPORTS GOI APOLOGY TO UNNAMED RELIGIOUS LEADER FOR POLICE INTRUSION INTO HIS HOME IN QOM LAST WEEK. GOI STATEMENT EXPRESSED "DEEP REGRET" AND NOTED POLICE WERE NOT LOCAL RESIDENTS OF QOM AND DID NOT REALIZE THEY WERE ENTERING RELIGIOUS LEADER'S HOUSE. GOI STATEMENT NOTED "RIOTERS" INSIDE HOUSE CONTINUED TO CHANT ANTI-NATIONAL SLOGANS AND ATTACK POLICE, DURING WHICH TWO RIOTERS WERE WOUNDED. ONE OF THEM SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. OTHER SOURCE TELLS US HOME BELONGED TO AYATOLLAH SHARIATMADARI, LEADING QOM AYATOLLAH.

6. SEVERAL ADDITONAL ARRESTS OF INDIVIDUALS FOR ANTI-STATE ACTIVITY HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER PAST FEW DAYS. MOST NOTABLE WAS ARREST IN ABADAN OF THEOLOGY STUDENT MOHAMMAD

HOSSAIN RAMSHAHRI AS HE WAS BOARDING PLANE FOR TEHRAN. ACCORDING TO POLICE, RAMSHARI HAD GIVEN HEATED SERMON MAY 10 AT BEHBAHANI MOSQUE IN ABADAN AND HAS ADMITTED BEING SENT TO ABADAN FROM QOM BY ANOTHER QOM RESIDENT WHOSE NAME WAS WITHHELD BY POLICE. THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF STORY WE HAVE HEARD PRIVATELY FROM NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN QOM HAVE BEEN COORDINATING MUCH RELIGIOUS DISSIDENT ACTIVITY BY MESSENGER AND TELEPHONE FROM THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN QOM.

7. NUMBER OF RUMORS ABOUND THAT THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN TEHRAN, MONDAY, MAY 15. ONE SOURCE SAID LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN PASSED OUT CALLING FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND FOR PEOPLE TO STAY OUT OF DOWNTOWN AREA WITH VEHICLES. CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICE REMAIN ON ALERT.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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